

Today marks the 41st anniversary of the founding of our Public Broadcasting System (PBS). PBS delivers unparalleled quality programming including news, children's shows, arts and cultural entertainment. The American public, year after year, has identified PBS as "the most trusted institution in America," even ahead of our courts system.

Where would America be without public broadcasting?

Families would lose access to award-winning programming that has proven its ability to boost a child's reading and comprehension skills. Not everyone can afford a costly cable package. Not only is it universally available, the content is solely focused on teaching our kids, not selling them something.

Much of the content on PBS is not commercially viable. One of America's greatest living historians and documentarians, Ken Burns, has said:

*Not one of my documentaries, produced solely for PBS over the past 30 years, could have been made anywhere but on public broadcasting... Each time I patiently explain to my new suitor what I have planned for my next project...I am laughed out of their offices, sent, happily, back to PBS.*

This value is realized by the American public. A recent poll showed that over two-thirds of all voters – Democrat or Republican – oppose proposals to eliminate government funding for public television and public radio. Some in Congress aren't hearing that same message. Another bill has been introduced attacking federal funding for public broadcasting. Everyone should mark this anniversary by fighting against these attacks and work to ensure that our communities will continue to have the extraordinary service that public broadcasting provides.